

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/734,277	HUSON, GALE W.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	John Sipos	3721	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-14 and 16-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/15/03</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative, Mr. S. Weinrieb, on September 29, 2005. It was discussed in the interview that the prior art does not show the connection means and the control means or their equivalents as required under 35USC112 , paragraph 6. Applicant's representative requested the addition of the following comments as part of the interview summary:

"It is initially noted that the connection means of the present invention comprises the lift cable 84 and the ne-gator springs 64,66, and the control means of the present in-vention comprises the pawl mechanism 98. When a film wrapping operation commences, the operator lowers the film roll carri-age 50 thereby elongating or expanding the negator springs 64,66. The negator springs 64,66 therefore want to contract back to their normal state, thereby normally biasing the film roll carriage 50 in the vertically upward direction. Thus, the vertically upward movement of the film roll carriage 50 is able to be controlled by means of the control means or pawl mechanism 98 when the pawl mechanism 98 is disposed ei-ther at its **DISENGAGED** state with respect to the lift cable 84, which permits the film roll carriage 50 to move vertical-ly upwardly under the biasing influence or force of the ne-gator springs 64,66, or at its **ENGAGED** state with respect to the lift cable 84 which prevents the film roll carriage 50 from undergoing vertically upward movement under the biasing influence or force of the negator springs 64,66.

It is respectfully submitted that new Claims 23 and 24 define over the prior art noted by Examiner Sipos, that is, Huson et al. (6,526,734), Huson et al. (6,470,657), Huson (6,449,928), and Rosenthal et al. (4,745,726), in that none of such references discloses the connection means comprising the lift cable 84 and the negator springs 64,66 connecting the film roll carriage 50 to the apparatus chassis framework, and none of the noted references discloses the control means comprising the pawl mechanism which is movable between the **DISENGAGED** and **ENGAGED** states with respect to the lift cable 84 so as to permit or prevent the vertically upward movement of the film roll carriage 50 under the influence or force of the negator springs 64,66.”

The original claims 1-22 have been cancelled and replaced with the following claims 2-13 and 16-24 as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~1~~  
23, wherein said connection means comprises:

at least one spring member having a first end portion operatively connected to said chassis framework; and

a lift member, selected from the group comprising a lift cable, a lift strap, and a lift belt, having a first end portion operatively connected to said film roll carriage and a second end portion thereof operatively connected to a second end portion of said at least one spring member.

3. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said at least one spring member comprises a pair of negator spring members which are normally disposed in a

**CONTRACTED, COILED** state but which can be moved to an **EXTENDED UNCOILED** state so as to impart a biasing force upon said film roll carriage, through means of said lift member, so as to tend to cause said film roll carriage to undergo vertically upward movement along said vertically oriented mast assembly.

4. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said vertically oriented mast assembly comprises a vertically oriented mast member, and at least one mounting plate fixedly mounted upon an upper end portion of said vertically oriented mast member;

said control means comprises a holding pawl pivotally mounted upon said at least one mounting plate between said **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions; and

a tensioning spring has a first end portion thereof mounted upon said at least one mounting plate, and a second end portion thereof connected to said holding pawl so as to normally bias said holding pawl toward said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member.

5. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising:

push-bar assembly means mounted upon said vertically oriented mast assembly for enabling an operator to operatively steer said apparatus around the wrapping station; and

release means operatively connected at a first end portion thereof to said push-bar assembly means, and operatively connected at a second end portion thereof to said holding pawl, so as to control said disposition of said holding pawl, in cooperation with said tensioning spring, between said **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions with respect to said lift member.

6. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein:

said push-bar assembly means comprises a mounting bracket mounted upon said vertically oriented mast member, a pair of handles integrally connected together, extending outwardly in opposite directions from said mounting bracket, and pivotally mounted upon said mounting bracket; and

an actuating lever fixedly mounted upon said inte-

grally connected pair of handles and operatively connected to said release means whereupon pivotal movement of said integrally connected pair of handles, and said actuating lever, said release means can control said disposition of said holding pawl between said **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions with respect to said lift member.

7. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising:

push-bar assembly means mounted upon said chassis framework for enabling an operator to operatively steer said apparatus around the wrapping station; and

release means operatively connected at a first end portion thereof to said push-bar assembly means, and operatively connected at a second end portion thereof to said holding pawl, so as to control said disposition of said holding pawl, in cooperation with said tensioning spring, between said **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions with respect to said lift member.

8. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 7, wherein:

said push-bar assembly means comprises a mounting bracket mounted upon said vertically oriented mast member, a pair of handles integrally connected together, extending outwardly in opposite directions from said mounting bracket, and pivotally mounted upon said mounting bracket; and

an actuating lever fixedly mounted upon said integrally connected pair of handles and operatively connected to said release means whereupon pivotal movement of said integrally connected pair of handles, and said actuating lever, said release means can control said disposition of said holding pawl between said **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions with respect to said lift member.

9. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said film roll carriage is vertically movable along said vertically oriented mast assembly between a lower **START** position and an upper **FINISH** position, as a result of said at least one spring member being moved from said an **EX-TENDED** state back to a **CONTRACTED** state, such that the wrap-ping



operation can proceed vertically upwardly from the bot-tom of the article to the top of the article; and

reset means are mounted upon said apparatus for resetting the position of said film roll carriage back to said lower **START** position, from said upper **FINISH** position, upon completion of a film wrapping operation, so as to again cause said at least one spring member to be moved from said **CONTRACTED** state to said **EXTENDED** state in preparation for a new film wrapping operation.

10. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in 9, wherein:

said reset means comprises a reset handle fixedly mounted upon said film roll carriage for enabling the operator to move said film roll carriage vertically downwardly from said upper **FINISH** position to said lower **START** position.

11. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in 9, wherein said reset means comprises:

a reset cable fixedly connected at one end thereof to said film roll carriage; and

a rotary sheave member, upon which a second end portion of said reset cable is connected, for coiling said reset cable so as to move said film roll carriage vertically downwardly from said upper **FINISH** position to said lower **START** position.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 23, wherein:

said film roll carriage is vertically movable along said vertically oriented mast assembly between an upper **START** position and a lower **FINISH** position whereby the wrapping operation can proceed vertically downwardly from the top of the article to the bottom of the article; and

manual means are mounted upon said apparatus for moving said film roll carriage from said upper **START** position to said lower **FINISH** position.

13. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4, wherein:

said vertically oriented mast member comprises a pair of vertically stacked, separable mast members which can be separated from each other so as to reduce the height dimension of said vertically oriented mast member in order to facilitate transportation of said apparatus from one location to another.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim ~~4~~ 23, wherein:

said chassis framework has a substantially C-shaped rear section, upon which rear wheels are mounted, so as to define a recessed region within which an operator may stand so as to optimally control said apparatus during a film wrapping operation.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~15~~  
24, further comprising the steps of:

providing said connection means as at least one spring member having a first end portion operatively connected to said chassis framework, and a lift member, selected from the group comprising a lift cable, a lift strap, and a lift belt, having a first end portion operatively connected to said film roll carriage and a second end portion operatively connected to a second end portion of said at least one spring member;

moving said film roll carriage to a vertically lower **START** position so as to cause said at least one spring member to be operatively moved from a normally **CONTRACTED** state to an operatively **EXTENDED** state; and

moving said control means from said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member to said **DISENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member so as to permit said at least one spring member to vertically move said film roll carriage from said lower **START** position toward an upper **FINISH** position as said at least one spring member returns from said operatively **EXTENDED** state toward said normally **CONTRACTED** state whereby wrapping of the article can proceed in accordance with a bottom-to-top mode of operation.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising the step of:

providing said at least one spring member as a pair of negator spring members.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising the step of:

manually operating reset means, operatively connected to said film roll carriage, for moving said film roll carriage from said upper **FINISH** position back to said lower **START** position, upon completion of the article wrapping operation, in preparation for a new article wrapping operation.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 18, further comprising the step of:

mounting a reset handle upon said film roll carriage; and

manually moving said film roll carriage vertically downwardly from said upper **FINISH** position to said lower

**START** position by pulling downwardly upon said reset handle.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in 18, further comprising the steps of:

connecting a first end portion of a reset cable to said film roll carriage, and connecting a second end portion of said reset cable to a rotary sheave member; and

rotating said rotary sheave member for coiling said reset cable thereon so as to move said film roll carriage vertically downwardly from said upper **FINISH** position to said lower **START** position.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~15~~ 24, further comprising the steps of:

providing said connection means as at least one spring member having a first end portion operatively connected to said chassis framework, and a lift member, selected from the group comprising a lift cable, a lift strap, and a lift belt, having a first end portion operatively connect-

ed to said film roll carriage and a second end portion operatively connected to a second end portion of said at least one spring member;

moving said control means from said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member to said **DISENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member so as to permit said at least one spring member to vertically move said film roll carriage to an upper **START** position as said at least one spring member moves from an operatively **EXTENDED** state back toward a normally **CONTRACTED** state whereby wrapping of the article can proceed in accordance with a top-to-bottom mode of operation;

manually moving said film roll carriage from said upper **START** position toward said lower **FINISH** position so as to cause said control means to be moved from said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member to said **DISENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member whereby said film roll carriage will be permitted to move toward said lower **FINISH** position, said at least one spring member simultaneously being moved from said normally **CONTRACTED** state to said **EXTENDED** state; and

terminating manual movement of said film roll carriage toward said lower **FINISH** position so as to permit said

control means to be moved back to said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said lift member so as to maintain said film roll carriage at said lower **FINISH** position.

22. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 21, further comprising the step of:

providing said at least one spring member as a pair of negator spring members.

23. (New) Portable apparatus adapted to be moved along a circular locus around an article disposed at a wrapping station so as to be capable of wrapping the article in wrapping film, comprising:

a chassis framework;

a plurality of wheels mounted upon said chassis framework so as to enable said portable apparatus to be moved around a wrapping station at which an article is to be wrapped;

a vertically oriented mast assembly mounted upon



said chassis framework;

a film roll carriage vertically movable upon said vertically oriented mast assembly between **START** and **FINISH** positions during a film wrapping operation performed upon an article at the wrapping station;

a roll of wrapping film mounted upon said film roll carriage;

connection means operatively connected at a first end portion thereof to said film roll carriage, and operatively connected at a second end portion thereof to said chassis framework, for biasing said film roll carriage in a vertically upward direction; and

control means mounted upon said vertically oriented mast assembly for movement between **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions with respect to said connection means so as to operatively control the vertical movement of said film roll carriage along said vertically oriented mast assembly between said **START** and **FINISH** positions by permitting said film roll carriage to move in said vertically upward direction, under the biasing influence of said connection means, as a result of said control means being disposed at said **DISENGAGED** position with respect to said connection means, and by preventing movement of said film roll carriage in said verti-

cally upward direction, under the biasing influence of said connection means, as a result of said control means being disposed at said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said connection means.

24. (New) A method of wrapping an article, disposed at a wrapping station, within wrapping film, by means of portable apparatus which is adapted to be moved along a circular locus around the article disposed at the wrapping station, comprising the steps of:

providing a chassis framework upon which a plurality of wheels are mounted so as to enable said portable apparatus to be moved around a wrapping station at which an article is to be wrapped;

mounting a vertically oriented mast assembly upon said chassis framework;

mounting a film roll carriage, having a roll of wrapping film mounted thereon, upon said vertically oriented mast assembly such that said film roll carriage is vertically movable between **START** and **FINISH** positions during a film wrapping operation performed upon the article disposed at the

wrapping station;

operatively connecting a first end portion of a connection means to said film roll carriage, and operatively connecting a second end portion of said connection means to said chassis framework, for biasing said film roll carriage in a vertically upward direction;

mounting control means upon said vertically oriented mast assembly for movement between **ENGAGED** and **DISENGAGED** positions with respect to said connection means; and

operatively controlling the vertical movement of said film roll carriage along said vertically oriented mast assembly between said **START** and **FINISH** positions by disposing said control means at said **DISENGAGED** position with respect to said connection means so as to permit said film roll carriage to be moved in said vertically upward direction under the biasing influence of said connection means, and by disposing said control means at said **ENGAGED** position with respect to said connection means so as to prevent said film roll carriage from undergoing movement in said vertically upward direction under the biasing influence of said connection means.

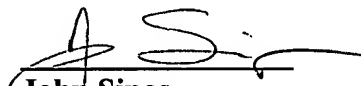
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to **Examiner John Sipos** at telephone number **571-272-4468**. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at **571-272-4467**.

The **FAX** number for U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is **(571) 273-8300**.

  
**John Sipos**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 3721**